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THE THIRD MAN: GEOMETRY OF MURDER

PART ONE: Narcotics, Theft, and Violence in the Seattle Grunge Scene of the 1990s

The criminal underworld of mid 1990s Seattle was a freewheeling down and dirty band of boho bad news bears. A heroin dealing nexus of Tommy Hansen and Caitlin Moore centered around the grunge hotspot Capitol Hill neighborhood. And running wild inside this was a small, though highly volatile, drug fueled street gang managed by Dylan Carlson and Mark Lanegan. Their gang operated as a tightly coordinated narcotics, and petty theft, band of hooligans stomping around Capitol Hill and Aurora Avenue. Enterprising they were too, and their dirty dealing network extended past the Pacific Northwest region down the I-5 to contacts and runners in Tacoma, Portland, Los Angeles, Texas, and Mexico.

The core day to day reality of this grimy, gritty grunge gang was simple need, heroin addiction demanded their total attention. To fail was to get junk sick, with waves of nausea, aches, fever, and chills of withdrawal within hours. This parasitic need defined their waking days, and sleepless in Seattle nights, with diminishing returns - a destructive, and continuous skank-ass skag run paired with repeated violent, and felonious scams, hustles and dirty deals done dirt cheap. Nothing was out of the question, because there was only one answer - dope, and how to get more.

Outside of their music, Mark Lanegan, and Dylan Carlson functioned as self-described dope fiends who spent their daily routines smoking crack

cocaine, and shooting heroin, establishing a shared substance dependency that simultaneously reinforced their role loyalty, and escalated internal volatility. In the end, heroin replaced friendship, loyalty, bonds made, and unmade since they were young, and the most basic human decency to each other, let alone anyone else. Still, through all this shit storm, the bro-mance from hell between Carlson and Lanegan didn't skip a beat; they both kept their mouth shut until Lanegan's dying day.

Organizational roles inside the gang were divided to maximize efficiency, and exploit their local music scene status for gain. Lanegan operated as the core strategist of the gang, mapping out thefts, and managing distribution. Dylan Carlson functioned as the critical social bridge, and runner between users, and suppliers, using his close friendship with Kurt Cobain, and his frequent presence in Capitol Hill social hubs to navigate between street level subculture, and high value consumers. Because of Lanegan's local notoriety, and distinct physical presence, the leadership pair relied on one hell of a motley crew of criminal associates to navigate the gutter grind, do that dirty work, and get hustle down on Broadway. Their prime enforcers, and runners, were identified as John Hicks, and Steve 'Slayer' Hanford.

The revenue generation mechanisms of the Carlson-Lanegan gang targeted high value individual clients, and Seattle grunge businesses through scams driven entirely by the financial suckerpunch of maintaining addiction. For a three-month streak through hell, the gang operated a highly lucrative daily drug scoring scam centered around a wealthy Boeing executive in his mid-fifties. The executive was introduced to the gang by Hanford's cousin, who worked as an escort, and fellow addict. Under this hustle to end all hustles, the Boeing executive paid a daily cash premium of one hundred dollars, dropping a bill on them just for showing up, and surrendered half of all the acquired narcotics to the trio - at 8 in the morning. And then he went to work.

To maintain this big spender aviation exec, the roles were doled like double nickels on the dime: Lanegan cooked the crack cocaine in his

kitchen, Carlson scored methamphetamine in the grimy hallways above the Moore Theatre on 2nd Avenue, and the gang used a local dope connect to secure consistent quantities of heroin for the executive.

In addition to individual exploitation, the gang executed heinous property crimes against the local music industry bigwigs. Lanegan, Carlson, and Hanford operated a coordinated merchandise theft ring that targeted the inventory of the SubPop record label. The trio stole large quantities of compact discs, and promotional inventory from the label. They then transported these stolen goods to local independent music shops, such as Cellophane Square, where they sold the inventory to the stores, actively undercutting SubPop's own wholesale distribution rates to secure quick cash for more dope.

A more grotesque institutional theft occurred after the retirement of SubPop record label co-founder Bruce Pavitt. Steve Hanford was hired to organize Pavitt's massive, high value private record collection. Operating entirely unsupervised with personal key access over a two-month period, Hanford violated this trust by stealing thousands of dollars' worth of rare, pristine vinyl records from the collection, including mint condition copies of the first Nirvana single. The liquidation of this stolen collection required coordinated logistics: Dylan Carlson, and Mark Lanegan drove to high end regional record stores, including Singles Going Steady, and Cellophane Square. Carlson entered the establishments to liquidate the stolen booty while Lanegan waited outside in the vehicle to avoid detection due to his prominent local notoriety. Every dollar generated from this systematic plunder was instantly converted into narcotics to feed the group's daily role habits.

The sordid underbelly of this gang was characterized by extreme behavioral volatility, physical threats, and orchestration of violence. The shared spaces occupied by the gang housed a shifty, and shady ass cast of characters operating under chemical incapacitation, leading to a desensitized environment capable of physical harm. When internal gang betrayals occurred, the leadership responded with retaliation. Following an internal drug dispute where Steve Hanford was caught skimming

narcotics from the gang supply lines, Mark Lanegan issued a one-hundred-dollar crack cocaine bounty among Somali street gangs with an order to find Hanford, and mercilessly beat him bloody, or kill him outright. This willingness to deploy lethal force, and finance contract violence highlights a gang that transcended standard addiction logistics, these dirty dogs didn't give one good goddamn, running the streets as a grunge street gang capable of coordinated, high stakes physical actions, short sharp shocks of violence, right on down to the get down potential cover up of homicide.

PART TWO: THE THIRD MAN: Searching with My Good Eye Closed

In the classic 1949 film noir, the elusive 'Third Man' is Harry Lime, a charismatic yet utterly amoral racketeer who faked his own death to escape police investigation for trafficking diluted, lethal penicillin on the postwar Viennese black market. By contrast, the 1994 Third Man was someone that helps kill rock stars in Seattle.

The investigation into the events surrounding the death of Kurt Cobain at his Cobain mansion has focused deep down on the identified presence of a third participant who arrived alongside Dylan Carlson, and Mark Lanegan during the critical early morning hours of April 3, 1994. Forensic mappings, and informal disclosures by scene participants use the designation DCR, which is defined as 'Dylan Carlson's Roommate', to identify this third actor who participated in the physical restraint, assault, and forced chemical incapacitation of Cobain. Multiple individuals inside the Capitol Hill narcotics gang occupy this candidate profile based on their domestic proximity, heroin habits, and verified records of violent criminality.

JOHN KEVIN HICKS: John Kevin Hicks stands as an imposing physical presence, recorded in official law enforcement documentation as measuring 6 feet 4 inches tall, and weighing 274 pounds. He possesses a large blocked, heavy build, brown hair, and hazel eyes. His physical profile includes a documented tattoo located on his right shoulder, which represents a critical point of evaluation against street level

anonymous tips.

Criminal History: The criminal record of John Kevin Hicks is distinguished by sexual offenses, and probation violations, each of which is legally classified as a felony. On October 7, 1998, Hicks was processed in Tennessee for non-felony infractions including Simple Possession of Marijuana, Driving on a Suspended License, and Failure to Appear. His criminal conduct escalated by May 3, 2016, when Hicks was arrested by the Knoxville Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Hicks was charged with Solicitation of a Minor, and Aggravated Statutory Rape, a felony under state law, after arranging to meet a fifteen-year-old for sexual acts. Hicks pleaded guilty to these charges on October 21, 2016, receiving the maximum statutory sentence, and a mandatory lifelong registry requirement as an active sexual offender against children in Tennessee under the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Offender Identifier 00571806. His felonious behavior continued during his period of state supervision. In October 2017, Hicks was arrested for a violent felony Violation of Probation following the law enforcement seizure of an unauthorized electronic tablet. On April 13, 2018, he was arrested again by state authorities, and hit with another felony Violation of Probation alongside a new independent felony charge of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor involving a concealed cellphone, and attempted evidence tampering. Great guy, huh?

Gang Role: Inside the Seattle narcotics gang, Hicks served as Mark Lanegan's prime bag man, mobile runner, and trusted sidekick throughout the 1990s Screaming Trees tours, and localized drug scores. Hicks had been on the scene since forever, even designing album sleeves for

revered independent punk label SST down in Los Angeles. Lanegan's autobiographical accounts spoke with grudging admiration of Hicks performing hazardous dirty work, drug scoring runs, and physical enforcement whup ass tasks. Hicks was deep down embedded in the core regional heroin distribution ring managed by Lanegan, and Carlson, and he was uniquely distinguished by Lanegan as one of two junkies he trusted completely to handle large substance transactions without stealing, or skimming product - the other honorable junkie being Dylan. Hicks maintained direct domestic ties to the gang, living as roommate with Mark Lanegan in his Seattle apartment during late 1995, at which point he split, hit the bricks back to the sticks of his home state Tennessee to kick junk, and score teenage kicks instead.

Status as the Third Man: Hicks represents a prime candidate for the third man role due to his straight shot integration into the timeline, logistics, and physical requirements of the assault. He was close linked to the Cobain estate, when he personally assisted Lanegan, if Lanegan's autobiography account is to be believed, in an early 1994 incident where he used his massive physical frame to revive an unresponsive Kurt Cobain from a narcotics overdose, carrying boulders to break windows. Buzzing rumors that don't quit place Hicks at the Cobain mansion alongside Mark Lanegan, and Dylan Carlson during the early morning hours of April 3, 1994. Because of his massive frame, Hicks fits the bill needed to execute the physical restraint, dragging, and manual transport of an incapacitated guitar hero from the basement to greenhouse. His identity was likely obscured in subsequent disclosures by Burns because he remains a living participant subject to prosecution, unlike dead Dark Mark.

STEVEN SHANE HANFORD: Steven Shane Hanford, widely known on the streets under the moniker 'Thee Slayer Hippie', stood 5 feet 11 inches tall, though his weight fluctuated drastically due to chemical dependency, peaking past 300 to 340 pounds. 'Slayer' was nationally recognized as the drummer for the legendary Portland punk rock band Poison Idea. Hanford is dead, having suffered a fatal heart attack on May 21, 2020.

Criminal History: The legal history of Steven Shane Hanford contains instances of armed violence, and theft, to finance his out-of-control narcotics addiction, culminating in a major felony prosecution. On October 6, 2008, Hanford was arrested in Portland, Oregon, following a violent string of armed robberies executed at Walgreens pharmacies. Hanford held up these commercial locations at knifepoint to secure narcotics. He was convicted of multiple counts of this violent felony offense, and was sentenced to a multi-year state prison term, serving a minimum sentence of six to seven, and a half year under the thumb screw of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Gang Role: Hanford functioned as a principal asset, and secondary dirty work specialist for the Carlson-Lanegan gang. He was deeply integrated

into the daily sheisty sheists of the gang, participating in the Sub Pop merchandise theft scams, the Bruce Pavitt record collection heists, and the daily scoring logistics for the Boeing executive. Hanford maintained continuous domestic ties with the leadership, sharing an apartment with Mark Lanegan, and eventually co-residing in a tight apartment unit with both Lanegan, and Dylan Carlson during their peak criminal period in late 1995. Despite his role, Hanford was deep down distrusted by Lanegan because he frequently skimmed off a portion of the scored narcotics for personal use prior to delivery.

Status as the Third Man: Hanford's street moniker, Thee Slayer Hippie, hints at his double-sided nature - which Steve you got depended on where he was with his gargantuan appetite for espresso, alcohol, and heroin, all consumed while he executed tricky mixes recording many bands in Portland, and California. Thee Slayer was not without talent, and many spoke well of his skill on the boards, a keen ear, and his role in legendary punkers Poison Idea. Furthermore, he provided a direct logistical connection to the internal set-up of the Cobain household through one May May Del Castro, employed as housecleaner for the Cobain mansion in 1994. Del Castro was simultaneously performing in a musical group named Gift alongside Hanford, and her husband, punk Poison Idea priest Jerry A Lang. This cross connection provided the gang with detailed intelligence regarding the estate layout, and schedule. However, independent professional recording credits, and studio logs anchor Hanford's physical presence to the Portland, and Milwaukie geographical corridor during the spring, and summer of 1994. During the window of the assault, Hanford was producing albums for the bands Heatmiser, and Ain't, getting fried at the desk with Elliot Smith, while battling personal heroin incapacitation, making his physical presence in Seattle on April 3, 1994, a big fat maybe.

DAVID SCOTT CARLSON: David Scott Carlson is the fraternal twin brother of Dylan Randolph Carlson. He operated inside the immediate

physical, and familial orbit of the gang leadership, providing a direct biological, and logistical link to the core of the gang.

Criminal History: David Scott Carlson maintains a documented history of narcotics involvement, and physical violence inside the King County judicial system, featuring a major felony conviction. On February 16, 1984, Carlson was arrested, and charged in King County, Washington, with a Controlled Substance Violation, a case that concluded with formal processing on May 4, 1984. His propensity for violence was legally established on October 15, 1991, when he was arrested, and charged in King County with Assault in the Second Degree, which is a Class B felony under Washington State law. Carlson refused to accept a plea bargain offered by the state, forcing the case to trial. On June 8, 1992, he was officially convicted of second-degree assault by a jury verdict. This violent felony conviction legally established that Carlson had either intentionally, and recklessly inflicted substantial bodily harm on a victim, or had committed an assault using a deadly weapon, providing verified proof of significant physical violence immediately preceding the 1994 timeline.

Gang Role: Certified legal records, and housing indexes document David Scott Carlson as a direct co resident, and roommate sharing an apartment with his twin brother Dylan Carlson at 2210 Northeast 92nd Street, Apartment 304, in Seattle. He occupied this residence continuously from 1992 through 1994. This residential overlap placed him in immediate physical proximity to the logistics of the gang during the window when the Remington shotgun involved in Cobain's death was purchased, moved, and stored. David Carlson subsequently

maintained his shared residential setup with Dylan Carlson, using a single private commercial mailbox at 300 Queen Anne Avenue North between 1996, and 1998.

Status as the Third Man: David Scott Carlson stands as a prime candidate for the specific identity of DCR, the acronym defined by scene witnesses as 'Dylan Carlson's Roommate'. First hand disclosures from Joe Burns, present at the estate, name DCR as a core participant of the tight knit trio alongside Dylan Carlson, and Mark Lanegan. The timeline establishes that this specific trio arrived together at 1:00AM on April 3, 1994, to accost, physically restrain, and inject Cobain. While it remains unknown if David Carlson shared the intravenous heroin habits of the other gang members, his violent felony credentials, immediate co residency at the shotgun storage location, and fit for the DCR designation strongly support his role in the physical deployment, and execution of the logistical sequence at the mansion.

JOSEF DYLAN BURNS: Josef Dylan Burns, known as Joe Burns, was born in November 1968. Burns is the author of a 2025 first person account titled To Kurt, I am Sorry, controversially ghostwritten by researcher Chris Todd. Criminal History: Josef Dylan Burns maintains a thirty-year criminal career defined by a continuous pattern of serious drug trafficking arrests followed by highly irregular leniency, and case dismissals, confirming his protected status as a high value confidential informant. This revolving door strategy allowed him to walk away from fifteen separate criminal cases across multiple counties in Washington, and Oregon while his direct criminal associates faced prison terms.

Burns operated extensively inside the Pacific Northwest narcotics corridor as a mobile runner, and drug scorer. In the early-1990s, unemployed drug addicts Joe, and "Connie Burns" [presumed pseudonym of Bonita Jo "Bonnie" Dillard] operated a theft ring to fund their heroin dependency, stealing furniture, rugs, and artifacts from the Sullivan family residence in Bellevue, Washington. Joe Burns transported the stolen merchandise to a rental house in Ocean Park on the Washington coast, selling items to local antique dealers at low prices,

and trading pieces to a Seattle drug pusher named Rocky on Cherry Street, in exchange for heroin. Following an investigation by Detective John Hansen, both Joe, and "Connie" were arrested, and convicted of felony theft, and possession of stolen property. Following his arrest, Burns gave a confession to detectives exposing Mexican Mafia narcotics activities, securing a highly favorable King County guilty plea in 1995.

His documented history of felony activity began in 1994 in Seattle, Washington, when he was arrested for street level narcotics dealing in Belltown, and Capitol Hill. He was subjected to multiple felony arrests for Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act Delivery of Narcotics, including a 1994 arrest at 3rd Avenue, and Pine Street, and a 1995 arrest on Capitol Hill. He dodged state prison entirely when the King County Prosecutor dropped, and 'no-filed' these felony delivery charges in exchange for Burns providing state's evidence against his distribution gang associates. In 1997, Burns was arrested on Capitol Hill for felony Delivery of Heroin at 1017 East Harrison Street, this charge was reduced to a mere thirty days in jail, and standard probation through an informant switcheroo that cleared all his other pending felonies. After relocating to Oregon, Burns accumulated a string of drug trafficking convictions.

On January 22, 2009, Burns was convicted in Multnomah County of Class A felony Delivery of Heroin, and Class B felony Possession of Heroin under Case Number 090130338, serving a brief prison term. Burns secured subsequent felony convictions for heroin delivery, and possession in the same jurisdiction on November 3, 2011, under Case Number 111134630, and on June 19, 2012, under Case Number 120632658. On January 30, 2019, Burns was processed in Marion County, Oregon, for felony Delivery of Methamphetamine, felony Possession of Heroin, and Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants under Case Number 19CR07691, serving a brief prison sentence until his release in February 2021. His most blatant informant walk occurred on January 4,

2024, when he was arrested by law enforcement in Lane County, Oregon, under Case Number 24VI04212. Burns was apprehended inside a vehicle containing a commercial quantity of nearly one pound of fentanyl powder, pressed fentanyl pills, and heroin. While his hapless young Latino co-defendants were immediately transferred into federal custody to face mandatory minimum prison sentences under Case Number 6:24-mj-00003, Burns's status as a high value cooperator caused his state level felony trafficking charges to be completely neutralized, and closed within days as a minor non-criminal violation, allowing Burns to do a cake out, and away from jail. Nice work if you can get it, baby!

Gang Role: Burns operated as a street level runner, and drug scorer who maintained intimate proximity to the Carlson-Lanegan supply lines. He frequently stayed at various residential hubs inside the Capitol Hill gang, using his contacts to feed the daily logistics of the core gang.

Status as the Third Man: Burns maintains a unique position in the investigation because he admits to his direct physical presence inside the Cobain mansion during the critical days of early April 1994. His firsthand accounts document that he was doing tattoo work on Cali DeWitt in the basement of the mansion with his girlfriend Bonnie Dillard on the night in question. Forensic, and linguistic analysis of his written disclosures reveals a highly specific pattern of behavior characterized by protective omission. Burns exhibits detailed sensory recall surrounding non incriminating elements of his days at the mansion, though displays dense, artificial memory blocks ly around the assault, forced chemical injection, movement of the body, and the staging inside the greenhouse. This targeted memory gap represents a self-preservation strategy consistent with his long-term informant role. In the world of Joe, protecting himself is job number one. While his accounts do not attribute acts of physical violence to himself, framing his presence purely as a passive witness to the actions of the arriving trio, his physical placement at the scene suggests direct role knowledge.

CHRIS MICHAELSON: Chris Michaelson functioned as a mobile runner,

and drug supplier inside the Capitol Hill heroin set-up. Anonymous tips submitted to law enforcement profiles describe an enforcer figure operating in the Cobain circle as standing 6 feet 8 inches tall with a large square head, and distinct orange, or red hair, a description that street level rumors frequently conflated with Michaelson's mobility, and gang associations.

Criminal History: Initial database searches did not return an authoritative public criminal court conviction, or verified felony record for Christopher Michaelson inside the immediate Seattle municipal portals. The only verified legal filings attached to this name in Washington State portals are strictly civil, and non-criminal. These consist of a 1994 Civil Eviction Unlawful Detainer filed by a landlord under Case Number 94-2-04849-0 SEA, and a 2015 Civil Tax Warrant filed by the Washington State Employment Security Department under Case Number 15-2-20098-4 KNT. While contemporary media accounts, and press reports from the era reference localized narcotics arrests in Pioneer Square, and adjacent neighborhoods, verified judicial matching remains absent.

Gang Role: A fellow traveler, though separate from the Carlson-Lanegan gang, Michaelson maintained verified involvement as a core runner, and role partner for prominent Capitol Hill heroin dealer Caitlin Moore. The pair operated a high-volume distribution hub centered at the Lorington Cooperative Apartments, located at 1102 East Denny Way, [with an alternate address, interestingly, of 1832 11th Avenue Unit D1]. Court records from early 1994 anchor Michaelson's personal residency at the Capitol Apartments, located at 208 11th Avenue East, Apartment 10, placing him nine blocks south of Moore's prime supply location, and establishing his immediate physical presence in the shared distribution corridors. Michaelson moved product directly, serving as a prime supplier, and runner, to musicians inside the extended Carlson-Lanegan circle, including Kristen Pfaff, Layne Staley, and various members of the bands Babes in Toyland, Seven Year Bitch, and Hole. Michaelson had a weak spot for grunge's kinderwhore bad asses, and would deliver. Conflicting witness placements locate him across the hall from

musicians Stu Spasm, and Kat Bjelland, or alternatively as a roommate to Larry Schemel at the Granada Apartments, Apartment 102, located at 1736 Belmont Avenue, a key building where scene queen, and low-key supplier, Jen Adamson (died 2002) lived. Cobain, Dylan Carlson, Joe Burns, and Bonnie Dillard, all spent considerable time at Adamson's apartment. Adamson was involved romantically with Rene Navarrette, Cali DeWitt, and according to Joe Burns, also with Kurt Cobain.

Status as the Third Man: Michaelson's role in the Caitlin Moore supply line fed into the Carlson-Lanegan logistics gang through shared distribution channels, positioning him as a highly plausible candidate for the gang's actions. Unsolved Mysteries hotline logs feature multiple tips describing a suspect matching his enforcer profile driving a tan Cadillac who was engaged in aggressive financial disputes with Cobain over drug payments shortly before the death. Michaelson is rumored to have been physically present at the Cobain mansion in the days preceding the death to enforce collection. Following the untimely narcotics death of kinderwhore pinup and badass bassist Kristen Pfaff of Hole, whom Michaelson (via Eric Erlandson) is theorized to have supplied with her final lethal dose of heroin, he executed a rapid flight along the Interstate 5 corridor to Salem, Oregon, alongside Caitlin Moore, mirroring regional escape patterns. In recent years, public allegations broadcast by scene figures such as YouTube broadcaster John Purkey concerning Michaelson's direct participation in the staging of the scene have resulted in targeted threats of extreme violence.

ERIC ERLANDSON
In early, rambling interviews of interminable pauses, mumbles, and slurred speech, an intoxicated Joe Burns talked about a presumed Eric Erlandson: "From what I saw, I always get a bad feeling from that guy, he rubs me the wrong way. [....] I always just go hang out in a different room when he's around. [...] I saw him twice that day, between Cali's bedroom, and the jam space. [...] He stays away from me, so I couldn't tell you a lot." Whether this was before, or after Cobain's death is unclear. Burn switches to present tense discussing him, indicating that he is talking about a living person, rather than the dead Lanegan.: Eric

Erlandson stands as a tall, slender figure, measuring between 6 feet 2 inches, and 6 feet 5 inches tall, with a lean frame weighing 170 to 180 pounds. He was nationally prominent as the guitarist, and co-founder with Courtney Love of the alternative rock band Hole. Erlandson possessed no history of physical violence, held no criminal record inside the street level distribution gang, and strictly avoided the incapacitating heroin habits that defined other scene associates. Erlandson played it straight, and was a connecting node to interesting characters like Tracy Harrison (Tater Totz, Kill Allen Wrench, White Flag), and Georg Ruthenberg [aka Pat Smear (Germs, Tater Totz, Nirvana, Foo Fighters, Holez).

Criminal History: There is no documented public criminal record, arrest history, or felony prosecution attached to Eric Erlandson in either the Washington, or California judicial databases.

Gang Role, and Command Link: Erlandson occupied a unique, and powerful position, operating as Courtney Love's most trusted confidant, physical proxy, and direct role link to the Seattle drug, and logistics set-up. He relocated to Seattle in 1992 specifically to manage Hole affairs in close proximity to Love. Having previously worked in professional accounting at Capitol Records, [where he later helped secure DeWitt a job with vague A&R duties, not at Geffen, as is often written], Erlandson possessed insider insight into the Cobain's complex corporate finances, assets, and logistical schedules. Because he was clean, and sober, he avoided the erratic volatility of the local junkies, enabling him to function during April 1994 as the central command link coordinating between Courtney Love in Los Angeles, and Cali DeWitt, and Dylan Carlson in Seattle.

Status as the Third Man: Erlandson stands as a prime suspect for the third man role, operating not as physical muscle, though as the master coordinator, and insider handler responsible for scene sanitation, and evidence staging. Love mainlined continuous telephone contact with Dylan Carlson during the final week, deploying Erlandson as her physical eyes, and ears on the property. Erlandson was present, by his own

admission, at the Cobain mansion on March 30, 1994, shadowing Cobain alongside Dylan Carlson while Cobain packed his luggage for the Exodus rehabilitation facility. Harvey Ottinger, the professional limo driver hired to transport Cobain to Sea Tac airport, sat outside waiting for 45 minutes, and documented the shadowy presence of these handlers, stating that Cobain was surrounded by a group of people who did not have his best interests in mind, a fact Cobain openly recognized. Erlandson drove his own personal vehicle to shadow the limo all the way to Sea-Tac airport terminal to ensure Cobain arrived. Inside the limo, Cobain discovered a box of shotgun ammunition hidden in his luggage, and reacted with genuine shock, and confusion. This discovery supports the valid investigative theory that Erlandson, or Carlson, planted the ammunition inside the bag during the packing process to manufacture a false trail of suicidal intent under direct orders from Love, attempting to provoke an airport security incident to discredit Cobain before the lethal plan went into high gear.

Had Kurt Cobain attempted to clear airport security with the shotgun shells, the ammunition would have been immediately confiscated, causing delays that would have forced him to miss his flight. Furthermore, the incident would have triggered local police, due to a weapons seizure at his home just weeks prior.

Following Cobain's escape from the rehabilitation facility, Erlandson executed a chaotic, highly suspicious travel schedule designed to seemingly manipulate the timeline, and obscure his movements, details that Courtney Love hid from private investigator Tom Grant. Erlandson was documented staying with Love at the Peninsula Hotel in Los Angeles on April 3, and April 4, though he secretly flew to Seattle during the critical April 3 to April 5 window. Witnesses caught him frantic inside the Cobain mansion on Monday, April 4, where he demanded to know the location of the newly purchased shotgun from teenaged Jessica Hopper, one of DeWitt's girlfriends. Erlandson ransacked the house to secure, with keys to a padlocked room, and remove Cobain's highly valuable trove of unreleased musical demo tapes. Investigative theories indicate he used this unsupervised access to drive out to

Cobain's isolated property in Carnation, Washington, on Monday, or Tuesday morning to plant corroborating evidence, and sanitize the main estate, intentionally steering subsequent search efforts away from the greenhouse.

Erlandson claimed to biographer Charles Cross that he was physically in Seattle on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 5, actively searching the streets for Cobain. However, music journalist Gillian Gaar possesses concrete, contemporaneous interview notes proving that Erlandson personally answered the telephone inside Love's private suite at the Peninsula Hotel in Los Angeles at exactly 4:00PM on that identical afternoon. This geographical lie was constructed to mask his actual cleanup mission in Seattle. Despite his documented presence at the mansion during the critical staging window, Erlandson was never formally interviewed, nor processed by the Seattle Police Department. His absolute loyalty to Courtney Love, access to the estate keys, and rapid shuttling between the cities make him the ideal insider for the coordinated staging, and rapid closure of the case.

SUMMARY COMPARISON OF THE THIRD MAN CANDIDATES: Geometry of Murder

Candidate Name, Physical Frame, Verified Felony Record, Documented Living Together, Primary Investigative Stature

John Kevin Hicks, 6 feet 4 inches, 250-274 pounds, Multiple sexual felonies, Roommate to Mark Lanegan

Steve Hanford, 5 feet 11 inches, 275-320 pounds, Armed pharmacy robbery felony, Roommate to Lanegan, and Carlson

David Scott Carlson, Fraternal Twin, 180 pounds, Violent second-degree assault felony, Roommate to Dylan Carlson at 92nd Street

Josef Dylan Burns, Mobile Runner, 170 pounds, Extensive multi state trafficking felonies, Guest at various Capitol Hill gang hubs

Chris Michaelson, 6 feet ? inches, Weight unknown, square Head, Non-criminal civil evictions only, Resident near Lorington, and Granada hubs

Eric Erlandson, 6 feet 4 inches, 170-180 pounds, slender Build, None, completely clean record, Confidant, and proxy to Courtney Love

PART THREE: DYING DAYS - LIVING TOGETHER, LOW DOWN HUSTLES, AND DIRTY DEALS. The Carlson-Lanegan crime gang was reinforced by a complex web of continuous residential overlaps, shared properties, and drug scoring that linked every major participant across the Pacific Northwest grunge narcotics corridor. Prior to peak scams, and scores of the mid 1990s, the nexus of the gang was cooked up inside a massive, three-story dilapidated mansion located in the Green Lake/Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle. Situated specifically on Northeast 50th Street right near University Way Northeast, famously known as The Ave, and running against the Interstate 5 corridor, this deep down rat infested grunge mansion functioned as a centralized counterculture hub. Mark Lanegan lived in this shared residence with Dylan Carlson in 1990 during the formal recording of Lanegan's initial solo album, The Winding Sheet, and the early preparation phases for the debut EP Extra-Capsular Extraction, by Dylan Carlson's band Earth, released in 1991. The smash palace housed a volatile, rotating cast of sub scene associates who mingled with Lanegan, and Carlson, among them Joe Burns. These cohabitants included Slim Moon, founder of the independent record label Kill Rock Stars who served as an early vocalist for Earth during the band's formative Olympia years, and Nate Hill, a guitar player from Ellensburg nicknamed Little Axl. The domestic environment was further defined by the continuous presence of musician Joe Preston, prominent bassist for Earth, the Melvins, Sunn O))), and Thrones, who was widely noted inside the scene for extreme behavioral volatility. This Green Lake mansion established a permanent Olympia-Seattle narcotics nexus, cementing the role ties between Carlson, Lanegan, independent label alliances, and street level enforcers. Later, as the gang escalated narcotics distribution scores, and scams, domestic setups shifted into tight Capitol Hill apartment clusters to streamline scoring. John Hicks

lived as roommate with Mark Lanegan in his apartment during the high volume distribution era through late 1995. Following Hicks' departure to Tennessee to kick junk, Dylan Carlson moved into Lanegan's apartment unit. Lanegan was already sharing this living space with Steve Hanford, who migrated north from Portland under the professional guise of producing Lanegan's third Sub Pop album. This shared apartment arrangement quickly abandoned all musical production, descending hell bound into a full time criminal headquarters dedicated to cooking, and smoking crack cocaine, and shooting, and hustling intravenous heroin. Concurrently, a secondary critical logistics hub operated out of the Granada Apartments, Apartment 102, located at 1736 Belmont Avenue on Capitol Hill. This building housed resident Larry Schemel, and scene associate Jen Adamson, and functioned as a continuous role crossroads where Dylan Carlson, Kurt Cobain, Joe Burns, Bonnie Dillard, Cali DeWitt, and multi state runner Rene Navarrette spent considerable blocks of time consuming, and moving product. This gang connected across the street to the Lorington Cooperative Apartments, located at 1102 East Denny Way, where Caitlin Moore, and Chris Michaelson managed their prime heroin supply hub, serving prominent local musicians, and participants in the Carlson-Lanegan extended circle. The concealment of this gang extended to formal family, and financial alliances. The Carlson brothers, Dylan, and David, maintained deep inter-clan connections that may (or may not) point to government intelligence involvement. Their father, Corlan Arthur Carlson, was a high clearance Department of Defense intelligence officer who operated during the 1970s in West Germany, stationed at major Cold War signals intelligence, and espionage bases including Field Station Augsburg, Ramstein Air Base, and Wiesbaden. The twin brothers also kept close clan ties to relatives Stephen Bartelmez, a prominent stem cell biologist, and biotech founder, and his wife Elizabeth Bartelmez, who fast tracked specialized research grants, and government funding. Dr. Stephen Bartelmez established an role link to defense pipelines through his corporate venture, BetaStem Therapeutics, where prominent scientist Dr. Patrick Iversen served as an executive, and advisor. Because Dr. Iversen simultaneously held a division chief role at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID),

their shared genetic, and cellular platform technologies intersected with high-level military biodefense programs. These high level relatives shared long term homes with the Carlson twins in Seattle, and Bellingham. In April 1996, exactly two years after the death of Kurt Cobain, the Carlson twins, and the Bartelmez couple suddenly abandoned their independent residential mailing addresses, and began sharing ONE single private commercial mailbox located at a shabby shopfront at 300 Queen Anne Avenue North in Seattle for years after. This highly irregular arrangement was likely deliberately established to consolidate, and conceal their communications, wire transfers, Western Union money transfers, and legal matters from their actual physical home addresses, ensuring total control, and asset protection, during a period of intense public, and journalistic scrutiny. Cover your tracks, hide traces, keep your cover is intel-op 101.

DEATH OF KURT COBAIN: Kick the gong down a one-way street The collective data points, residential overlaps, and first hand timelines position the Carlson-Lanegan gang as the prime role force used to execute, and stage the last encore for Kurt Cobain. In April 1994, Cobain was a very wealthy man with no will, divorce plans underfoot, and truth be told, one hell of a raging bad habit. Cobain had transitioned into a catastrophic financial liability for major record label interests, management assets, and his immediate circle. Cobain was actively moving to permanently cancel highly lucrative contract obligations, including many rescheduled cancelled dates of the In Utero European tour, and a $9.5 million headlining slot on Lollapalooza, which threatened millions of dollars in projected corporate revenue. Furthermore, Cobain was finalizing legal steps to sever his marriage, alter his will, go solo, seize total control of his personal wealth, and completely escape major label interference. Because of his immense cash value, and total defiance, Cobain might have become worth more dead than alive. With the infamous death clauses written into many music industry contracts, a highly coordinated conspiracy, in the true sense of the word, may easily have been deployed to eliminate him before Cobain could execute his legal rights. Follow the money, the saying goes, it never lies. Who stood the lose the most could easily gain

the most if Cobain was out of the way. King County intestacy laws clearly state if a spouse without a will commits suicide the entirety of his assets switch over to his spouse, and kid. If he OD'd instead, his lack of a signed will would have left his estate in limbo for years of lawsuits to come, with lawyers walking away with big wads of cash money. A dead Kurt Cobain was worth nine times more than alive, delivering massive immediate, and enduring financial windfalls to Geffen, and DGC Records, Gold Mountain management, image/logo/copyright holders, and estate beneficiaries Courtney Love, and Frances Bean Cobain. His $50 million estate at death in April 1994 ballooned to over $450 million by 2014, generating tens of millions annually via catalog sales, merch, licensing, and the 2006 Primary Wave sale of Nirvana publishing rights for over $50 million. Cobain pissed off his boss, CEO David Geffen, by sending a direct angry letter threatening to break up Nirvana over the Vanity Fair article on Courtney, endangering Geffen/DGC's investment, and royalties. Cobain severely pissed off Gold Mountain's John Silva (Goldberg was already gone, managing Atlantic Records), through unreliability, rehab escapes, and moves to sever ties threatening their commissions. Cobain pissed off Perry Farrell, and Ted Gardner, by pulling Nirvana from the $8-10 million 38-date Lollapalooza 1994 headlining tour (withdrawal announced April 6, just before body found). Cobain had pissed off multiple insurers, venue owners, and operators, booking agents by canceling/rescheduling 24 In Utero European dates in 1994. Death activated death, and non-performance clauses for Geffen/DGC, and insurers to collect life insurance in multiples of projected earnings per Hank Harrison, surged sales of In Utero, and the subsequent Unplugged, with Nirvana's catalog now a perpetual revenue. Dead Cobain secured stable control/commissions for Geffen/DGC, Gold Mountain, and the estate without Cobain's disruptions. Geffen/DGC, and the estate beneficiaries led by Courtney Love, gained the most. The role blueprint used by the gang matches the historical execution of United States Marine Corps Colonel James Sabow in 1991. Colonel Sabow was an elite military officer poised to expose a massive, illegal street drug smuggling pipeline operated by corrupt government agents, and military handlers who used military aircraft to traffic narcotics. Because his defiance threatened the dark wealth, and deep role secrets

of the command structure, a black ops enforcement team was deployed to eliminate him, and protect the gang. The technical methodology in both the Sabow, and Cobain executions is identical, revealing a specific professional signature. In both instances, the target was first completely incapacitated through physical, or chemical force to prevent defense mechanisms: Colonel Sabow was struck a massive, fracturing blow to the back of his head, while Cobain is said to have been subjected toa similar strike to the head with his own MTV VMA award, used as a doorstop to Cali's bathroom. Cobain was subjected to a forced, manual injection of a heavy-bore needle in 18-to-21-gauge range, with a triple lethal dose of heroin. While the targets were entirely unconscious, a shotgun was placed into their mouths, and discharged. The crime scenes were then staged to manufacture a false account of sudden suicide. In both cases, basic physical, and forensic evidence completely failed to match the suicide story: there was an absolute absence of expected gunshot residue, or high velocity blood spatter on the targets' hands, the spent bullet casings were discovered in physically impossible locations relative to the weapon mechanisms, and there was an absence of required exit wounds that standard ammunition should have produced. Furthermore, in both instances, regional law enforcement authorities immediately shut down the investigations inside forty eight hours, refusing to conduct basic forensic analysis, preserve the scene, or process documented witnesses, confirming a high level cover up designed to protect the dark wealth of the underlying gangs. The first hand timeline compiled by investigators places the Carlson-Lanegan gang at the Cobain mansion to execute this sequence. According to the eyewitness accounts of Josef Burns, who was present in the basement of the estate alongside Bonnie Dillard, a tight knit enforcement trio consisting of Dylan Carlson, Mark Lanegan, and the participant designated as DCR arrived at the property at exactly 1:00AM on the morning of April 3, 1994. This team used their intimate familiarity with the household schedule to walk right in. The trio confronted Cobain, using physical force to accost, and restrain him while a massive, incapacitating dose of pure heroin was forcibly injected into his veins. Any of the Third Man candidates, though particularly John Kevin Hicks, standing 6 feet 4 inches, and weighing between 250, and 274 pounds,

had the physical muscle required to handle, drag, and manually transport Cobain's chemically paralyzed body from the basement threshold up toward the isolated "green room" as Cobain had dubbed it, situated above the detached garage. For Cobain, the greenhouse, a space reminiscent of the attic room he had grown up in Aberdeen, went from safe space to a date with death. Eric Erlandson, and Dylan Carlson, managed the tracking of the weapon, ensure the placement of the shotgun shells, and later, with May May del Castro did a final top to bottom cleaning of the main residence. The entire gang then used their established regional narcotics contacts along Interstate 5 corridor, and into Los Angeles to clear the area before the body was discovered by an electrical contractor days later. In short order, Jen Adamson, Bonnie Dillard, Michael 'Cali' DeWitt, and Rene Navarrette fled not only Seattle, though got the hell out of Washington State as fast as they could. Joe Burns, travel hampered by his deals cut with the Feds, ruefully commented only he remained behind.

MYSTERY TIPS, AND THE LYRICAL LEDGER OF CONFESSION

The dirty deeds of this go-team are deep down corroborated by highly specific anonymous hotline tips submitted to the television program Unsolved Mysteries in 1997, which levelled street level rumors against insider knowledge. Unsolved Mysteries Tip Number 1 described a highly volatile suspect embedded in the Seattle drug scene who stood 6 feet 8 inches tall with a large square head, and distinct orange, or red hair, driving a tan Cadillac, who had threatened to bust Kurt's head open over unresolved drug money disputes. Investigative analysis confirms this tip represents a composite street rumor blending the conspicuous visual traits of Mark Lanegan (cynically dubbed "Pumpkinhead" by dealer Tommy Hansen) with the massive physical frame of his prime enforcer, John Hicks. Lanegan was naturally copper red headed, wearing his hair long, and conspicuous on the street. Top dog Aurora Avenue dealer Tom Hansen documented Lanegan's street persona under the moniker 'Pumpkinhead', dismayed that Lanegan's massive head of bright red hair stood out like a flame out front of Tower Records. Hansen documented that Lanegan operated as a professional booster, running around Seattle all day every day shoplifting high end clothing from Nordstrom, or

stealing rare books, and records to cross town traffic them for immediate cash to secure low stakes fifty dollar drug fixes, which he forever was trying to shortchange Hansen by a few crumpled bills. The street rumor combined Lanegan's red haired Pumpkinhead persona, and volatile disputes with the heavy build of John Hicks, while the tan Cadillac accurately tracked the mobility of runner Chris Michaelson, or delivery dealer Tommy Hansen, who drove a high performance muscle car all day, with Lanegan frequently riding shotgun, to drop off product to local musicians. Unsolved Mysteries Tip Number 2, submitted by an individual using the name Larry Smythe, which investigators claim as a protective pseudonym for Granada Apartments resident Larry Schemel, was routed from Las Cruces, New Mexico. The caller stated that exactly two days prior to Cobain's death, he was inside the Cobain mansion consuming drugs with Cobain. Cobain told Larry that he was facing trouble, and physical threats, from a mobile dealer named 'Stan' (another pseudonym) because Cobain refused to surrender more cash for drug purchases. The tip specifically noted that Stan possessed a distinct, colored tattoo of a pink gorilla located on his left shoulder. John Kevin Hicks stands as the prime match for this profile. Hicks operated as the mobile runner, and collection enforcer handling street transactions for the Lanegan gang during this window. Most critically, Hicks' official Tennessee Bureau of Investigation violent sex offender registry files document a prominent, permanent tattoo located on his shoulder frame. In the chaotic telephone game of street level drug logistics, and anonymous reporting, a heavy set multi state runner with a verified shoulder tattoo matches the enforcement, and collection persona of Stan far better than localized street users. Ultimately, the most definitive ledger of this criminal gang, and the events of April 3, 1994, was delivered by Mark Lanegan himself through the lyrics of his final recordings. Following his permanent relocation to Killarney, Ireland, with his wife Shelley Brien in 2020, a move that preempted potential United States legal proceedings, Lanegan released highly autobiographical, dark electronic records containing oblique admissions of guilt regarding a shared pact of silence. In the 2020 track Hanging On, subtitled as written for Dylan Randolph Carlson, or DRC, Lanegan delivers a direct message to his gang partner: "We've known each other

all too well, Walking side by side through fields of hell... You've always held your tongue, Despite what evil thing I'd done... Only you, and devil know where I've been." This lyric affirms a singular evil thing shared between Carlson & Lanegan that required a lifelong pact of absolute silence. And further, Lanegan's gratitude for that silence. Nothing heroic to see here, folks. Lanegan's confessions escalate to specific role details in the 2021 track Sunday Night 2:30 Am, released on his project with Skeleton Joe. The song points toward a timestamp: Easter Sunday, April 3, 1994, at 2:30AM, which represents the chronological timestamp identified by forensic analysts, and Joe Burns, as the time of Cobain's death. Lanegan sings: "Sunday night, 2:30 am... My trigger finger all blistered, and blue, From 24 hours of turning the screw... And it makes me wonder, How long I got to wander, All the rest of my days... There's a darkness all over this world." The physical imagery of a blistered trigger finger, and twenty four hours of prep work, aligns with the laborious manual process of staging a heavy Remington shotgun, clearing casings, and manipulating an unconscious body inside an enclosed greenhouse. Furthermore, the track Basement Door provides the map of the crime scene, framing the settlement of an outstanding debt through a possible match for the basement to greenhouse movement sequence detailed in the Burns account: "But now I have a debt to pay, Before I leave from here... I will leave this ugly place, Through the basement door." This is no great stretch to cite as a possible match for the basement to greenhouse movement sequence detailed in the Burns account. Finally, in the track Living Dead, and Turning Leaves, Lanegan outright described the target, tracing Cobain's exodus escape from California, his interstate travel, and his final violent resolution: "He's gone over the wall, And he's on his way home... He's only two states away... He's just a bullet away." With additional tracks such as No Justice, Hiraeth, and Skeleton Joe Manifesto, Lanegan consistently sustained motifs of internal shrines constructed to hide horrific historical acts, returning death figures, and the flooding of Seattle streets with skag [heroin]. The presence of Guns N' Roses bassist Duff McKagan playing across the record provides a chilling historical counterpoint, serving as the final verified flight witness who rode alongside Cobain on his final trip back to Seattle. Mark Lanegan died on February 22, 2022, at age 57

under unreleased official details following strange public statements regarding unresolved shadows, leaving this lyrical ledger as the permanent record for his many fans, and of the Carlson-Lanegan gang's logical end, with the death of Kurt Cobain. Lanegan's memoir Sing Backwards, and Weep details his history of juvenile offenses including vandalism, car prowling, illegal dumping, trespassing, shoplifting, possession of marijuana, theft of bicycles, and vehicle parts, insurance fraud, breaking, and entering, and possession of stolen property. These led to a suspended sentence of eighteen months after conviction for vandalism, theft, and underage drinking, conditioned on substance abuse treatment. His pattern continued into adulthood with distribution, scoring runs, merchandise theft, and reliance on sidekicks for high-stakes tasks. Strangely though, Lanegan was never again charged after his youthful crime spree. The gang's heinous underbelly included threats, physical enforcement, and potential murder. Lanegan once placed a one-hundred-dollar crack cocaine bounty on Hanford after his betrayal, directing Somalian street gangs to beat him bloody, or kill him. The group's activities intersected with the Capitol Hill heroin gang, involving runners, and suppliers who supplied musicians, and others on the scene. Coordinated actions, such as restraint, and injection described in eyewitness accounts, reflect their capacity for extreme violence when protecting the gang, or settling debts. Living together, and working together, created continuous role, and domestic bonds, reinforced by their shared addictions to hard drugs. Lanegan, and Dylan Carlson shared the Green Lake mansion in 1990, and later apartments. Hanford cohabited with Lanegan, and then the trio in 1995–1996. David Scott Carlson roomed with Dylan from 1992–1994 at the shotgun storage address. Hicks lived with Lanegan pre-1995. Michaelson, and Burns maintained Capitol Hill proximities near Lorington, and related hubs. These overlaps reinforced drug scoring, and hasher hijinks up, and down Aurora Ave, and all the way out to Tacoma, feeding the Carlson-Lanegan gang. They covered the gamut, from the sleazy Prust Mobile Trailer Park on Aurora Ave, and serviced Cobain at the Seattle Inn, Crest, and Marco Polo Motel, corner of 42nd, and Winslow Place, in the infamous room 226 where a gacked, and paranoid Cobain sat with his feet up on the radiator, on the nod,

watching foot traffic up the stairs into the corridor, or down in the alley. Theorized roles center on the April 3, 1994, events per Burns' accounts: the trio (Lanegan, Carlson, and DCR) arrived, restrained Cobain in the basement, administered a lethal hot-shot injection while he fought back, transported him to the greenhouse, and staged the scene with the shotgun. Motives tied to Cobain's desire to cancel tours, control finances, and exit label interference, making him a liability. Parallels to other staged deaths (such as Colonel James Sabow) involve knockout, shotgun to the mouth, and quick suicide rulings. Lanegan, and Carlson provided key early accounts, their later statements, and lyrics (Lanegan tracks referencing shared "evil," basement doors, trigger fingers, and debts) sustain speculation of involvement, and lifelong silence pacts. Erlandson's travel, and access suggest coordination, or cleanup. The gang's addiction-fueled loyalty, capacity for serious violence, and post-Cobain death rumored payoffs make the Carlson-Lanegan criminal gang central to the theorized operation. These accounts remain subjects of ongoing public scrutiny, and debate. Among candidates, John Kevin Hicks stands out as a strong physical, 'stand-up muscle on a one-way street' role match for the Third Man due to his size, enforcement history, shared living, and mystery tip match up. David Scott Carlson fits the 'Dylan Carlson roommate' designation best, via direct domestic family ties. No one knows for sure, though bets are on that Joe Burns does know, and is protecting a living person under the rules of criminal conduct, a person who could harm him for talking too much. Burns witnessed events, though remains, to this day, guided above all by self-preservation. Whether Steve Hanford, Chris Michaelson, the false witness Daniel Clint Rich, private investigator Ernie Barth, Joe Burns knows who the Third Man was. In his earliest interview accounts, before his severely criticized book was published, an intoxicated Joseph Burns mumbles, pauses, and blanks for hour after painful hour. Burns describes an unidentified third man as 'The Creeper', who accompanied Dylan creeping around the property. Although Cali claimed this individual was a private investigator taking photos, Burns did not recall whether the person was actually taking pictures. Burns maintains a purposefully vague stance regarding the exact identity of this Third Man, stating that he did not know his name, or who he was, though he

eventually acknowledged having seen the person around the mansion previously when someone else brought him over. This companion hung back, assisted Dylan in guiding Cobain upstairs to the greenhouse space, actively pressured Burns to leave the property, and intentionally stayed away from Burns, leaving him with a persistent bad feeling that prevented him from providing extensive details about the man's background. In his verbatim statements, Burns recounted the arrival, and his observations, stating, "Dylan shows up with some random weird dudes, one of whom I recognized", and "Dylan, and another shady person were there" because "he brought this other guy over", adding, "I'm pretty sure he brought like two guys over". He noted, "It could have been more than the one guy, I think there's the one guy that's hanging back", asking, "Did that guy come with Dylan? Probably. So, probably two". Regarding his familiarity, Burns remarked, "I hadn't seen one of the guys before", though "thinking about it more, I think I had seen that one guy somewhere, maybe with someone at the house one day, like I didn't know him, though I'd seen him around". He added, "At first, I didn't know who he was", "then I thought I'd seen this guy before, someone brought him around, I don't know him, though I'd seen him", and "one of them I might have seen before, I believe I seen before, yeah actually, though I don't know his name". Finally, Burns recalled, "He showed up, parked outside", concluding, "I just knew I'd seen him".

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